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Marines give blind glimpse of fair

Story and photo by
Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar assisted blind members of the San Diego Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired during a trip to the Del Mar Fair June 29.

The trip was coordinated through the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Chaplain's office and with Jerry Spatmiller of the San Diego Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired.

The day of the event Marines met with Spatmiller, a former Marine who is now blind, prior to meeting the people they would escort around the fair. Spatmiller explained what their roles would be and how to guide a visually impaired person. As escorts, Marines would be the eyes for them.

He also explained the difference between guiding and pulling someone around. Many people who are escorts for the first time try to drag

the person around with them, which can make that person stumble and feel uncomfortable. All they needed to do is let the person hold their arm near the bicep.

Once the members from the center were matched with a Marine, the day began.

Many of the Marines found themselves at the arts and crafts displays helping their new friends find their crafts and determine whether it won an award.

One Marine was surprised at the skill represented in the crafts. "It was amazing seeing a person who is visually challenged to create such beautiful artwork. It broke the conception of people who are visually challenged, that they are limited in what they can do, when in truth they are just as capable with minor exceptions," said Cpl. Michelle White, station food services support specialist.

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Lorraine Foster and her seeing eye dog, Trooper, are escorted at the Del Mar Fair June 29, by Cpl. Michelle White, a station food services specialist. White is one of several Miramar Marines who spent the day with members of the San Diego Center for the Visually and Hearing Impaired. The Marines served as guides and were temporary eyes describing the many sights awaiting fairgoers at Del Mar. For White and other Marines, this was a novel and exciting experience they hope to repeat.

'Black Knights' return home ...

Gunnery Sgt. Mark A. Lewis, MALS-11 deployment NCOIC, kisses his wife, Nina D. Lewis for the first time in six months as he returns from the Persian Gulf. Service members of VMFA-314 aboard the *USS John C. Stennis* left January 7, 2000, and supported the no-fly zone in Iraq during Operation Southern Watch. They also deployed to China, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia and Hawaii, where they picked up some family members for the "Tiger" Cruise on the ride back home. "We're happy to have them back," said Col. Terry G. Robling, Marine Aircraft Group 11 commanding officer. "They left with a reputation of excellence and they returned with a reputation of excellence."

photo by Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington



HMM-165 celebrates 35th birthday

By Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Medium Helicopter-165, "Sea Elks," Marine Aircraft Group-36, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, celebrated its 35th birthday June 30.

"This birthday is for the squadron's Marines and Sailors to know about, understand and appreciate their history," said Sgt. Maj. B. K. Jackson, HMM-165 sergeant major.

Activated July 1, 1965 at Santa Ana, Calif., HMM-165 has endured numerous deployments and reassignments.

In August 1965, the squadron was reassigned to Marine Wing Service Group-37.

They participated in the Vietnam War from October 1966 to August 1969, operating from Ky Ha, Hue/Phu Bai, the *USS Tripoli*, Marble Mountain and the *USS Tarawa*. "Those Marines of 1965 began a legacy that we (today's Marines and Sailors of HMM-165) are continuing today," said Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler, HMM-165 commanding officer.

They were redeployed during August of 1969 to Futenma, Okinawa and



photo by Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington

Lt. Col. Robert M. Zeisler, HMM-165 commanding officer, cuts a piece of cake during the 'Sea Elks' 35th birthday celebration, June 30 at Hangar 6.

reassigned to MAG-15, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. In that same year they were reassigned December 1969 to MAG-36, 1st

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Flight Jacket



Maj. Gen. M.P. DeLong
Commanding General
3d Marine Aircraft Wing

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases
Western Area

Maj. Stephen H. Kay
Director, Public Affairs Office

Lt. Rebecca Goodrich-Hinton
Deputy Director, Public Affairs Office

1st Lt. Edward J. Morales
Managing Editor

Staff Sgt. Jason N. Mayer
Internal Information Chief

Cpl. David Hercher
Editor

Cpl. Micheal Foley

Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington
Combat Correspondent



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Former Marine finds 'DI' on MCRD

By Cpl. Jessica Simonson

PAO, MCRD San Diego

"I would've made him eat it if I ever caught him with it," joked retired Sgt. Major E. L. Thompson of Tim Stanton's "illegal" diary that chronicled his time as recruit and guide of platoon 2043.

Thompson, a former drill instructor here, had no idea about the diary or the impact he'd made on Stanton until a recent reunion instigated by Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott, sergeant major Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area.

While Stanton was on the phone in his office, Lott came in and began rifling through Stanton's book collection when he came across a 1970 platoon book. Flipping through the pages, he spotted a picture of his old friend Thompson.

After Lott had Stanton's attention, he immediately hung up the phone and called Thompson.

"He was one of three recruits I would never forget," Thompson said. "'Do you remember platoon 2043,' Lott asked. 'I said yeah, that's one of the best platoons I had — the one with Stanton. There was just something special about him.'"

It was clear Thompson and Stanton were eager to meet again and share stories.

Thirty years after graduating recruit training here, Stanton, MCCS Family Advocacy Program manager at MCAS Miramar, was reunited with the drill instructor that left an impression that has lasted decades.

"A recruit has to be something special to remember him like that," Thompson said. "You have to think, 'I would like my son or my brother to be like that.' I was very impressed with Stanton."

Then, Staff Sgt. Thompson was looking for the opportunity to "fire" the platoon guide and put Stanton's leadership to the test. The time arrived at Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"That moment was a defining moment for me," Stanton said. "He challenged and respected me. I knew I could do it, not only because (the will to succeed) is part of my makeup, but to prove to him that he was right about me."

Stanton lived up to the chal-

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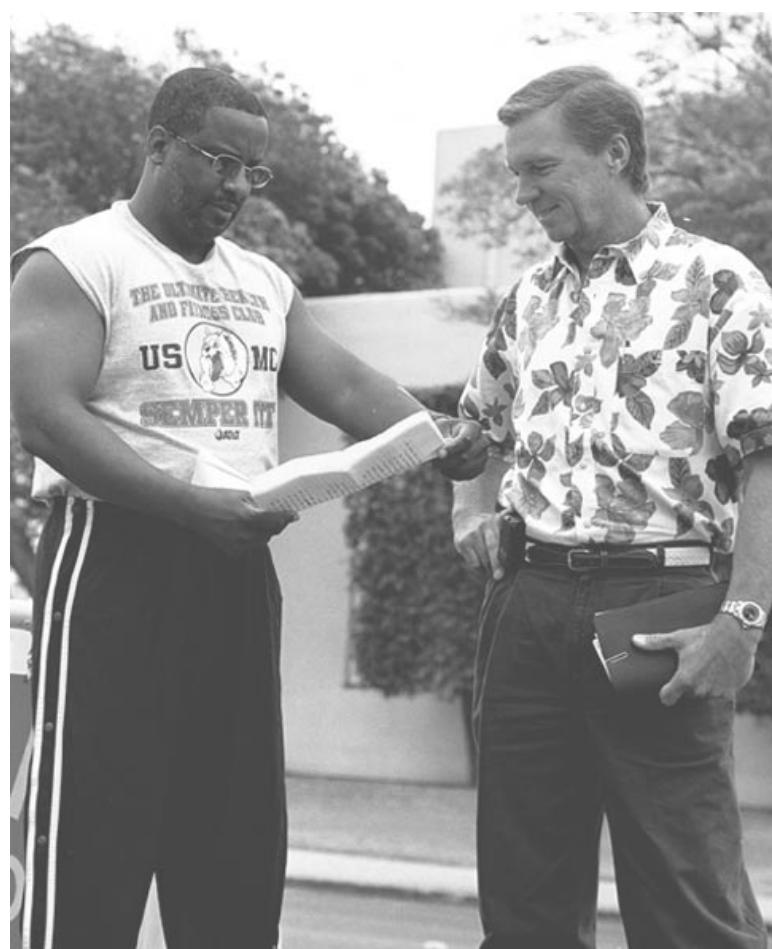


photo by Cpl. Jessica A. Simonson

Sgt. Maj. E. L. Thompson (ret.), left, gets his first glimpse of a diary of former recruit Tim Stanton. Stanton secretly documented memories of his days as a recruit in Thompson's platoon in 1970.

Marines safety a top priority

By Sgt. A. C. Strong

PAO, Headquarters Marine Corps

WASHINGTON — Thirteen Marine Corps general officers met with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Terrence R. Dake, for the first ever Executive Safety Board June 15, at the Arlington Annex.

These top officers met to discuss initiatives relating to safety in the Marine Corps, and to set up a comprehensive campaign plan for reducing fatalities and injuries due to mishaps. Statistics for the last 10 years show that an average of 100 Marines are killed each year and more than 2,000 are separated due to physical disabilities.

Off-duty vehicle accidents were listed as the top contributing factor, according to the Safety Division. According to statistics, more than 40 percent of Marines who die in automobile accidents each year are not wearing safety belts.

Loss of Marines due to fa-

talities and physical disabilities nearly equals the loss of an entire Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

"It's as if we sent a MEU to the Mediterranean each year and it didn't come back," said Gen. Dake, during the brief. "We have to make this a priority now."

In addition, the Marine Corps leads all other services and the federal government in injuries to civilian employees, according to Gen. Dake.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps has made the ACMC the safety officer for the Marine Corps. As Chairperson of the Executive Safety Board, Gen. Dake will ensure the Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan is out in July, according to Col. Leif R. Larsen, Headquarters Marine Corps, Safety Division Director.

Operations and safety will be intertwined in such a way that risk management and safety will be a part of all mis-

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Cooper to take command of MALS-11

By Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Lt. Col. Walter H. Augustin will relinquish command of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-11 to Lt. Col. William J. Cooper during a change of command ceremony scheduled for 2 p.m. on the flight line side of Hangar 2 July 14.

Augustin, a native of Chicago, has commanded the squadron since Jan. 23, 1999. His next assignment will be with at Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

"What I will miss most about MALS-11 is the opportunity to work with such a fine group of young Marines, Sailors and their families," said Augustin. "Their sustained superior performance has been my continual source of inspiration. They are my heroes."

"The opportunity to command is truly a privilege, and a brief one at that," added Augustin. "I would advise the incoming commanding officer to make every day count, to strive to make a positive difference in the lives of others and to take care of the Marines and Sailors who work so hard to ensure the continued success of MALS-11."

Cooper, a native a New York, comes off a year duty as executive officer of MALS-11. Cooper has more than 22 years of service. He entered the Marine Corps in June 1978 when he enlisted in the reserves and was com-

missioned in Dec. 1982 upon graduation from the University of Florida with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration through the Platoon Leaders Class program.

"I hope to bring to MALS-11, as the new CO, to continue to look out for the welfare of those Marines, Sailors and their families, who serve with pride and distinction in MALS-11, and are the main reason for the success this squadron has enjoyed," said Cooper. "I also strive to continue the outstanding reputation this



Official USMC photo

Lt. Col. William J. Cooper



Official USMC photo

Lt. Col. Walter H. Augustin

See **MALS-11**, Page 8

Baby Boot Camp program guides new parents



photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Expecting parents Luke and Sharee Willdigg listen to instructions given by a Baby Boot Camp instructor before they practice swaddling an infant. The class is offered here the fourth Wednesday and Thursday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon.

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

People need a license to drive a car, get married and even catch a fish, but no license is needed when taking charge of another life by becoming a parent. That's where the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine New Parent Support Program comes in.

The program is free and guides parents through the challenging job of raising a child from the prenatal stage through 7 years of age. New parents can take advantage of several of the program's tools including classes, social playtime and home visits by a member of the New Parent Support Program staff.

"The program helps new parents know what is normal when they encounter new things," said Nancy J. Hotchkiss, project director. "The biggest challenge new parents have to face is the adjustment of changing their couple into a triple. When the third person enters the picture, it completely changes their lifestyle."

A complete change in lifestyle can be a major challenge for anyone. By taking a class offered by the new parent support group, parents-to-be gain the knowledge needed to care for their child in the best possible way.

"We took the course to get all the information we could to give our child the best possible care," said Ashley M. Dymond, Baby Boot Camp student.

"That is the number one priority above everything."

Some students, like 1st Lt. Jeff W. Withee, action officer, Marine Air Control Group 38, would like to see more Marines families take advantage of the course.

"Commands make Marines attend a Driver's Improvement course, and I'm sure it convinces some Marines to take it easy on the roads," said Withee. "If we required Marines who were parents-to-be to attend a course like Baby Boot Camp, maybe we could prevent babies from being hurt and possibly break the cycle of abuse in some families."

At the classes new parents learn a variety of useful information and skills. Baby Boot Camp lessons include bathing, diapering, soothing a crying infant, safety, and how babies think and communicate.

In addition to Baby Boot Camp, the New Parent Support Program offers other parenting classes and a play morning, where parents and children can play and interact with other families. According to Hotchkiss, one of the most important parts of the support program is the home visit portion. Families can request a New Parent Support Program staff member visit the family in their home and provide counseling and education on problems or concerns the family members have.

To sign up for a class or for more information on the MCAS Miramar Marine New Parent Support Program call 577-9812.

MS. SEMPER FI 1999-2000

Mrs. Kelly Myers

Courtesy of Melanie Wallace

Founder, director Ms. Semper Fi Pageant

Kelly Myers is the first-ever winner of Ms. Semper Fi, a pageant that showcases outstanding military wives and active duty females. This year's Ms. Semper Fi, a Marine Corps wife, is a role model for other military wives.

Her role mirrors her husband's Marine Corps role; she is dedicated to her God, Country and Corps. Originally from Toledo, Ohio, Myers is a graduate from the Toledo Academy of Beauty Culture and is a licensed Cosmetologist.

In 1998 she was selected as a Top Ten Finalist from over 60 contestants in the Toledo Tas Spokesmodel Competition. Her husband, Edward, is an active duty Marine stationed on Camp Pendleton. They have been married since 1995.

In the past few months, Myers has received three awards for her charity work and for her dedication to community service: awarded for her service as a Camp Pendleton Docent; awarded the Outstanding Community service Award for her involvement as a Ranch House Docent, EWC member and a School Outreach Program Director; and, finally, a recognition award for her involvement with the annual Mother Goose Parade in San Diego County.

Since being crowned Ms. Semper Fi she has been incredibly active making appearances and has been involved in numerous charitable events. She has worked with many organizations and charities including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, USO, and the first annual "Crystal Ball" in October benefiting Casa de Amparo children's shelter — a shelter for severely abused and neglected children.

Myers worked recently with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation 65 Roses Golf Tournament with the San Diego Padres,

and attended a Celebrity Golf Tournament in June. She traveled to Toledo in December for several appearances with the nationwide Marine Corps Toys For Tots program.

Myers has been featured in the LA Times Magazine, The West Toledo Herald, San Diego County 619 Magazine,

for little Nicholas Hansen who recently received a bone marrow transplant. (Nicholas' father, Staff Sgt. Hansen, is stationed at Camp Pendleton.) She was able to meet Junior Seau and his wife, Gina, as well as several players from the San Diego Chargers while helping a beautiful little boy and a great cause.



Powerline, and the Military Press Newspaper.

This past September she worked with actor Lynn Court, "1st Officer" in the movie "Titanic," and recently met with actor Clifton Davis, star of the hit show "Amen" and "Party of Five." Mrs. Myers also assisted at the "Lucky Brand Foundation" black tie and blue jeans gala held at the Regency Beverly Wilshire Hotel, hosted by Howie Mandell.

In November Myers was a hostess for the 1999 L.A. Ovation Awards. Myers had the honor of working with many top celebrities such as Annette Bening, David Hyde Pierce ("Frasier"), Scott Wolf ("Party of Five"), Beatrice Arthur ("Maude" and "The Golden Girls"), Gary Marshall, Alfred Molina, and Sharon Lawrence from the hit comedy "Ladies Man" to name a few.

Myers has also had the opportunity to meet Tony Gwynn of the San Diego Padres, Stan Miller and Laura Buxton of the KUSI Morning Show, and Tony and Kris from 97.3 FM KSON radio.

Myers recently was at the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego to help raise money

On May 13, 2000, Myers had the honor and privilege to work backstage at the Los Angeles Coliseum with actors Dustin Hoffman, Whoopi Goldberg, Tracy Ullman, Christina Applegate ("Jesse" and "Married with Children"), and supermodel Cindy Crawford.

In July, Kelly will be flown to the Navy aircraft carrier USS John Stennis to perform on tour with the USO. Kelly

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Navy and Marine Corps wives and active duty women are urged to participate in this year's pageant being held August 19, 7 p.m. at the El Camino High School Theater in Oceanside. Entry deadline: July 20 Call 760-430-0978 for info.

From Top to Bottom and Left: Ms. Semper Fi with Dustin Hoffman; Cindy Crawford; Visiting veterans at the VA Medical Center in La Jolla; Kelly poses with a Marine Corps Color Guard; Waving to the crowd; last year's contestants; La Jolla firefighters take a moment to pose with Kelly after a parade.



Mainstay of Marine Corps aviation departs after more than 39 years of service

By Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

When 19-year-old Hubert Grummer left Conway, Ark., Nov. 15, 1960 to become a Marine he had no idea the trip would last so long and take him so far, in so many ways.

After a brief stint at Hendrix College on a basketball scholarship, Grummer coaxed high school buddy David Shelton into joining the Corps with him. His friend only spent a few years in the Corps, but Grummer was just getting started.

He would go on to become one of a select few Marines to serve more than 30 years on active duty. In fact, Grummer served 39 years, six months and two days on his climb from the rank of private to his final rank of lieutenant colonel. His career, which ended July 1, carried through 10 years of enlisted service up to the rank of staff sergeant, then six years in the warrant officer ranks and nearly a quarter century as a limited duty and commissioned officer.

Throughout his career Grummer has weathered 19 tours of duty, five of them overseas, including a 13-month tour to Vietnam early in his career and a deployment to Operation Desert Storm in 1991. Admittedly Grummer's favorite tour was his assignment to Marine Security Guard Duty in Karachi, Pakistan where he met his wife of 35 years,

the former Yvonne Diana Reuben. The couple has two adult children David and Diana.

Grummer never lost touch with the life of enlisted Marines and never forgot the importance each Marine plays in meeting the Corps' mission. In fact, he said it is the mutual respect and admiration he has shared with his fellow Marines he will miss most.

Today he remains a firm believer in empowering every Marine to do their job to the utmost of their ability.

"I like what I do. I like being a Marine, especially the camaraderie. I like being part of my Marines' success and them being part of mine," Grummer said. "I've always been a firm believer that if you take care of your troops, they'll take care of you, but it's a two-way street. I've been that way since I raised my hand and shipped over as a corporal."

A leader from the front who backs his troops at every turn

While his seniors, including Commander, Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, Vice Admiral Mike Bowman, tout Grummer as an institution in Naval and Marine Corps Aviation, the Marines and Sailors under his charge describe Grummer as a commensurate mentor.

"His greatest impact is when he's talking to somebody," said Staff Sgt. Christo-

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photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

A rewarding experience ...

Commanding General, 3d MAW, Maj. Gen. M. P. DeLong presents Gunner Sgt. Kimberlee D. Williams with a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal June 30. She received the award for her performance while serving as the operations chief of the Tactical Motor Transportation Platoon at Assault Amphibian School Bn., MCB Camp Pendleton from Dec. 16, 1998 to Dec. 28, 1999. Williams recently assumed duties as the new 3d MAW Equal Opportunity Advisor. Command Equal Opportunity Representatives can contact her for training and other Equal Opportunity Program resources. As an

EOA she educates 3d MAW Marines on the policies, practices and precepts of the Marine Corps EOP. Her office is located in Building 8401, Office E208 and she can be contacted by phone at 577-7447. The 3d MAW EOP is committed to ensuring fair treatment and equal opportunity for all Marines, Sailors and civilians within the command. "People are our most precious asset and we must protect them by providing fair and unbiased treatment for all," said Williams. "Equal Opportunity is not only a leadership issue, it is an obligation to each and every Marine, Sailor and civilian."



photo by Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

LtCol. Hubert A. Grummer left a basketball scholarship and Conway, Ark., to join the Corps. Nearly 40 years and at least ten promotions later his tour finally ended July 1. His diverse and in-depth knowledge of naval aviation supply made him a virtual institution in the field.



Magic Mountain

Exhilarating
rides and death-
defying heights
spell fun



Story and photos by
Cpl. Carolyn S. Sittig

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Nestled in the mountains of Valencia, Calif., are steel monsters waiting to take anyone daring enough on what could be the ride of their lifetime. They will drop you several hundred feet and while your heart is still racing from the fall and your stomach is lodged in your throat they soar to an equally high distance to begin the process all over again.

This ride is typical of what you can find at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Magic Mountain took nearly two years to build until it was ready for the public in 1971. It opened with 33 attractions like the Gold Rusher, the Log Jammer, the Metro and others, which are still in use.

Today the park features 43 rides and

attractions. Among them are 11 roller coasters, three water rides, Bugs Bunny World—a kiddie park and several action shows. Roller coasters include the West's tallest and fastest wooden and largest stand-up coasters.

The newest is the Goliath. This steel speed ride has a 255-foot plunge into darkness and goes 85 miles per hour throughout the 3 minute-long-ride. Many of the roller coasters have a height requirement of 42 inches or 54 inches. More information on the rides can be found at the park's Web site at www.sixflags.com.

The park is located 160 miles north west of Los Angeles and travel time may vary according to the amount of traffic. To get to the park follow Interstate 5 north to Magic Mountain Parkway. Take a left off Magic Mountain Parkway.

The water rides offer a reprieve from the sizzling Valencia temperatures and the





long wait in lines. They have a log ride, a water slide and a raft ride. For those who really want to splash can visit Hurricane Harbor water park, which is co-located with Magic Mountain.

Bugs Bunny World is comprised of six-acres of fun for the little ones like the 16 children's rides and attractions, arts and crafts, Looney Tunes characters and a petting zoo.

The park is open year-round, but hours vary according to the season. During the summer, the park is open from 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Scattered across the park are numerous ATM machines and bathrooms with baby changing stations. The park is also filled with snack shacks and restaurants to satisfy hungry park goers.

Tickets can be purchased on base at a discounted rate through Entertainment Tickets located in Building 2524 on Mitscher Way. Adult tickets are \$20.50 and \$10.50 for children to Magic Mountain.

Tickets to Hurricane Harbor are \$14.95. Entertainment Tickets does not sell seasoned tickets to Magic Mountain, but they can be purchased at the park for \$80 per person or \$260 for a family of four.

Entertainment Tickets also sells vouchers for the Best Western Ranch House across the freeway from the park for \$79, not including tax, which the hotel will charge upon arrival. For more information, call Entertainment Tickets at 577-4141 or 577-4126.



Magic Mountain is home to over 40 rides and only one of several across the nation. Located in Gotham City, one of the areas within Six Flags Magic Mountain, is the Riddler's Revenge. The Riddler is the world's fastest and tallest stand-up roller coaster. It pounds down the track at nearly 65 miles per hour through a mile of twists, loops and inversions. Near the archway into Gotham City sits the Batmobile. Gotham City is also home to Batman and other rides. Superman the Escape is a reverse free-fall ride that launches people 400 feet into the air at 100 miles per hour, then it drops them back down. The Goliath, Magic Mountain's newest addition runs along 4,500 feet of track at top speed of 85 miles per hour, including a 300-ft drop. Bugs Bunny World is filled with rides and attractions for children. It has a 6,000 square feet interactive area of foam balls, multiple slides and more. There is also a miniature version of the giant Carousel for children along with Tweety's Escape, a kid-sized bird cage that spins.

Marines,
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This event was a first for many of the members of the center and for all of the Marines. Petty Officer 2nd class Danny Stoddard, 3d MAW religious programs specialist, said though this was the first time Miramar Marines have done anything like this, it definitely will not be the last time.

“The day was definitely a success. There were three buses full of happy people leaving the fair—two with the blind and one full of Marines. All were ecstatic over the excitement of the day, the new friendships and the great feeling from being involved in such a worthwhile project,” said Stoddard.

The center serves as a foundation to, “rehabilitate the blind and vision impaired adults, so they can reach their highest level of independence and self-reliance,” according to their Web site at *www.sdcb.org*. They strive toward this through numerous programs focused on a variety of subjects from kitchen and typing skills to transportation, orientation and mobility.

There are two locations for the San Diego Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired, one at 5922 El Cajon Boulevard in San Diego and the other at 1385 Bonair Road in Vista. The centers are open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

For more information about the center, call (619) 583-1542 for the San Diego location and (760) 758-0380 for Vista. For information about future community projects coordinated through the chaplain’s office, contact Petty Officer 2nd class Stoddard at 577-7368.

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MAW and participated in the Philippines flood relief during July to August of 1972.

During the early 1970’s, they participated as a part of the Special Landing Force in support of the war in Vietnam, as well as, with the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit with the Navy’s 7th Fleet. In that same period they also participated in the evacuation of Saigon.

November 27, 1977, they relocated to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and were reassigned to MAG-24, 1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force where they participated in contingency operation in the vicinity of Beirut, Lebanon, September to October 1983, operating from the USS Tarawa. Six years later,

they supported United States interests by sending reinforcements to the American embassy in the Philippines during a coup attempt. The next year, they found themselves participating in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm until March 1991.

Elements of the squadron participated in Joint Task Force “Full Accounting” in Cambodia from September to October 1992, and again from March to April 1993.

In September of 1994, the squadron was reassigned again to the 1st MAW, Aviation Support Element and relocated in May of 1996 to MAG-16, 3d MAW at MCAS El Toro, Calif. Then the Sea Elks made the move to MCAS Miramar where they recently participated in peacekeeping operations in East Timor in late 1999.

In its 35 years, the squadron has received the Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with one Bronze Star for their actions during Vietnam, the Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with four Bronze Stars for actions also in Vietnam and Southwest Asia.

They received the Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer with two Bronze Stars for actions in Vietnam and the Philippines, two National Defense Service Streamers and a Vietnam Service Streamer with two Silver and three Bronze Stars. In addition they were awarded an Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Streamer.

Stanton,
continued from page 2

lenge and five weeks later graduated recruit training as the platoon and series Honor Man.

Stanton believes he owes Thompson more than just gratitude for his part in turning the 19-year-old Stanton into the man he is today. He is convinced he is alive because of the role Thompson played in preparing him for war.

Though he hadn’t yet been drafted, Stanton accepted that chances were great he would be called to serve his country in Vietnam. With that knowledge, he enlisted in the Marine Corps.

“If it was going to happen, I wanted to go with the best prepared,” he said. “I was going with the Marines.”

Thompson, who’d just returned from Vietnam after participating in the Tet Offensive, knew the dangers his new Marines faced and instilled values and knowledge he knew would help them in combat.

“I wanted to make sure I’d given them

everything I could to help them survive,” Thompson said. “I wanted to give them mental and physical toughness.”

It didn’t take long for Stanton to have to put his strength and courage to the test. Stanton was hit in his left leg — a wound that Stanton is sure would’ve killed him had he not received Thompson’s training.

“There is no doubt in my mind – I’m alive because of the training,” the San Gabriel, Calif., native said. “I should have bled to death.”

“I willed myself to stay conscious, remembered when I got hit to assess the situation, thought about what I could do to keep from going into shock. Boot camp is where you learn it.”

Staying calm and evaluating the situation saved his life, but the severity of the wound eventually cost him his leg. After returning from Vietnam, Stanton had the opportunity to return to the Depot to visit Thompson, who was still serving as a drill instructor.

Thompson, MCCA Fitness Center assistant manager here, said he often repeats the story of their first reunion. He was impressed with the man he’d seen transformed to Marine just a year before.

Since that meeting the two had lost touch with one another. Stanton married the woman to whom he sent his diary to and went to work for MCCA, then called Morale Welfare and Recreation. Thompson retired from the Marine Corps as a sergeant major after 31 years of service.

Though their lives took different paths, today the two have more in common than a mutual respect for one another. Working for the same organization and living nearby, both Stanton and Thompson look forward to continuing a relationship that started three decades ago.

MALS-11,
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squadron has in providing aviation logistics support and guidance to the units we support on behalf of the MAG CO.”

Throughout first tour, Cooper served in a variety of billets in the supply department and deployed with Marine Medium Helicopter-164 on the Marine Expeditionary Unit abroad the USS Okinawa and Marine Heavy Helicopter-361 on the Unit Deployable Program to MALS-36 in Western Pacific. In July of 1987, Cooper was transferred to the staff of Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific in Coronado, Calif.

Cooper attended the Amphibious Warfare

School in Quantico, Va., until graduation in May 1991. Upon graduation, Cooper reported for duty to MALS-39 at Camp Pendleton. While there, he served as the assistant supply officer and operation officer in the squadron.

In July 1994 Cooper transferred to the Naval Inventory Control Point in Philadelphia as the H-53/H-3 weapons manager and the head of the Customer Operation Department. In August of 1997, he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Upon graduation, Cooper reporter to MALS-11 here, serving first as the operations officer and executive officer. He was promoted to his current rank August 1, 1999.

Cooper holds a Masters of Science in systems management from the University of Southern California, graduating in 1986.

His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 1 gold star and the Navy Achievement Medal. Cooper is married to the former Frances Vigil of Espanola, New Mexico and has two sons, Billy, 6, and Gary, 4.

Safety,
continued from page 2

sions, exercises and daily evolutions.

Many of the Corps’ fatalities and injuries occur off duty, therefore the plan allows for a greater emphasis in that area, especially relating to private motor vehicle mishaps.

For further information, contact Capt. Landon Hutchens, Headquarters Marine Corps Division of Public Affairs Media at: (703) 614-6251.

Meyers,
continued from page 4

will also be a guest on the TV show “VIP” with Pamela Anderson.

Kelly has appeared in the Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Mother Goose Parade, North Park Toyland Parade, La Jolla and Fallbrook Christmas Parades, and La Mesa Flag Day. Her final parade appearance will be in Oceanside Freedom Days Fourth of July Parade.

The Ms. Semper Fi Pageant is honored to have such a beautiful and dedicated lady like Mrs. Kelly Myers as our first-ever Ms. Semper Fi. We are proud to be able to present Kelly and other military women like her with such amazing opportunities. They really are once in a lifetime!

Miramar slams Pendleton during tackle football game

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The strong legs of Jeremiah P. Budnovich and Darrell W. Gunter carried the Miramar “Jaguar” tackle football team past the Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group team, 27-6 in their second game of the season, here, June 28.

The two running backs combined for 193 yards on 17 carries and three touchdowns while accounting for more than 75 percent of the offense.

Although it is the Jaguars’ first year, they are already strong competitors in the Camp Pendleton tackle football League. They beat First Marine Regiment in their first game, 14-0 and overcame a series of first-half penalties to claim their second victory.

“We had 10 penalties for 100 yards,” said Richard Mohny, head coach. “Anytime you have more penalty yards than the other team’s offensive output, there’s a problem.”

Although Budnovich broke away for a few long runs early in the game, many were called back because of penalties. The first quarter ended in a scoreless tie.

A long play brought MSF close to the goal line and eventually into the end zone. The extra point was no good, and MHG held a 6-0 edge midway through the second quarter.

The Jaguars stormed back with long drive of their own until MSF picked off Aaron Sutton’s pass inside the 20-yard line. The play seemed to take the wind out of Miramar’s sail.



photo by Cpl. Michael O. Foley

Zack Higginbotham, Miramar kicker, helps the Jaguars kick off their inaugural season.

On the following series, the Miramar linemen proved too rigid for MSF. The defense drove them deeper into their own territory. Then Darrick Jordan recovered a fumble less than a yard from the end zone, giving the offense another chance to score before halftime.

They took advantage of the field position with a touchdown run by Gunter. Zack Higginbotham’s extra point was good and Miramar took a 7-6 lead into halftime. They would never look back.

“At halftime I told the offensive line that

we were starting to win the war in the trenches,” said Mohny. “If we played with more poise and intensity, and quit committing senseless penalties, they could take over the game,” he continued.

Miramar charged into the second half by receiving the kickoff and methodically marching down the field with a series of running plays. Gunter capped off the drive by carrying the pigskin across the goal line for his second touchdown of game. The extra point was blocked, but Miramar still held a 13-6 advantage.

After the kickoff, MSF started a long drive of their own. They slowly moved from inside their own 20-yard line past midfield and into Miramar territory until Floyd L. Elam, Miramar defensive back, picked off a pass and sprinted down the sideline. He was finally brought down inside the MSF 10-yard line.

It didn’t take long for the Jaguars to take advantage of the opportunity. Budnovich easily followed a wall of blockers into the end zone on the very next play. The extra point ricocheted off the crossbar, but Miramar extended its lead to 19-6 at the end of the third quarter.

The Jaguars added points late in the game on a 12-yard run by David L. Philpot, Jr., followed by a two-point conversion, making the final score 27-6. After winning their first two games by significant margins, Miramar may be a force to reckon with in the League despite the fact that this is their first year.

“Tryouts were offered to anyone stationed aboard Miramar,” said Mohny. “One-hundred-fifty Marines expressed interest, but only 70 showed up for tryouts. We are always drawing interest and allowing new players to try out.” The only thing the team seems to be missing is fan support. Since all the games are played on Camp Pendleton the games draw few fans from Miramar. “We’ve got one of the best teams in the league,” said Gunter. “We represent all of Miramar and we could do a lot better if with some more fan support. A good crowd always brings energy to a team.”

MALS-11 ‘Posse’ slaughter MWSG-37 ‘Nasty’--become flag football champs

By Lance Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Aviation Logistics Squadron-11 “Posse” claimed two intramural sports titles in as many days last week.

The softball team trampled Marine Wing Support Group 37 “4 Real” 24-4 June 28 and embarrassed Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron “Nasty” 34-6 in an intramural flag football championship game here June 29.

Winning is nothing new for MALS-11 Posse teams. Both the softball and flag football teams have won more titles here since 1997 than any other team — by far.

Second baseman Richard L. Mahoney lead Posse batters, scoring four runs and going 5-for-5 including a 3-run homer in the second, which turned out to be the game-winning hit.

Pitcher Carlos J. Muro held 4 Real batters to only six hits in the middle four innings. He also scored five runs on a 5-for-5 day at the plate.

Posse’s Jermaine Rutledge, wide receiver, lead his team to the championship celebration by powering over and through the opposing defense, scoring four of the Posse’s five touchdowns in the first half.

On the first play after the kick off, Posse scored its first touchdown on Mohny’s short pass to the right sideline which Rutledge took 40 yards into the end zone.

Nasty was unable to put any points on

the board during the first half. They had numerous bad passes and misplaced snaps throughout the game. One misplaced snap resulted in a safety, which was Posse’s last points in the closing two minutes of the game.

Posse’s half back Dominic Eley had four knockdown passes and two interceptions, one came on the first play of the second half, keeping Nasty at bay.

Joseph Stuck, wide receiver, scored the last Posse touchdown, making the score 32-0 before Nasty’s wide receiver Josiah Tagaloa could convert Nasty’s only touchdown.

The commanding officer of MALS-11, Lt. Col. Walter H. Augustin, was in attendance to watch both his team celebrate victory and present trophies to all the players.

“I am very proud of the performance of all the Marines and Sailors of MALS-11 whether in the work place or on the sports field,” said Augustin.

“They establish a legacy of sustained superior performance and I am glad I played a small part in their continuing success.”

He said the amassed bounty of trophies MALS-11 Marines have claimed in the past few years will require more room than anticipated.

Augustin said he will turn the ‘wall of fame’ in the squadron’s headquarters into a hall of fame.

DoD announces slight child care fee hike

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Fees at military child care facilities will increase by about \$1 to \$2 more per child each week for the 2000-2001 school year, DoD officials announced June 21.

The fees keep pace with estimates of inflation. DoD family policy officials review and update child care fees annually.

Depending on their total family income, DoD families will pay between \$40 and \$116 per child per week during the upcoming school year.

The fee represents about half the cost

of child care, the remainder is paid with appropriated funds from Congress.

How much parents pay for military child care is based on the family's total income. This includes all earned income — wages, salaries, tips, long-term disability benefits and voluntary salary deferrals.

It also includes service members' combat pay, housing and subsistence allowances, and the value of meals and lodging furnished in-kind to military personnel residing on military installations.

Installation commanders set fees within DoD ranges. This gives the commander flexibility to adjust fees based on the cost of living in the local area.

Commanders also have the authority to use an optional high-cost fee range in areas where it is necessary to pay child care providers higher wages to compete in the local labor market.

Installation child development centers may begin charging the following fees anytime between Aug. 1 and October 1.

Commanders may offer a 20 percent fee discount for each additional child from the same family. Hardship waivers may be granted for families in unique financial circumstances.

For more information see the DefenseLink Web site at www.defenselink.mil/news/June2000/.

'Party Smart' Program

To encourage the responsible use of alcohol when driving, and to promote the use of the Designated Driver Program, Miramar has expanded the Know Your Limits/Know Your Choices program creating the overall "Party Smart" program.

The "Party Smart" program provides alternatives to drinking and driving such as, promoting the use of the on base Designated Driver program, designated drivers receive free non-alcoholic beverages, a complimentary meal for a later date at an MCCS food service facility and free valuable coupons for various MCCS facilities.

Also, for anyone who chooses not to drive, or when the server deems that driving is not an option, MCCS personnel will either phone a friend or family member to have them picked up (individuals receive a coupon for a complimentary meal at a later date), they will call a taxi cab for them or make arrangements for them at the CBQ.

For more information on "Party Smart" call the Officers' Club 577 - 4808, SNCO Lounge 577 - 4799 or the Enlisted Club 577 - 4808. Remember to "Party Smart", know your limits and know your choices!

Summer Nights at Legoland

Legoland introduces *ColorJam*, an evening festival of colors, lights, music, dance and excitement that pulls families into the heart of the fun! Starting each evening around 5, *Mini Jams* will be staged in four different "blocks" of the park.

Each *Mini Jam* incorporates dancers and music "themed" to the colors blue, yellow, red and green, and the grand finale,

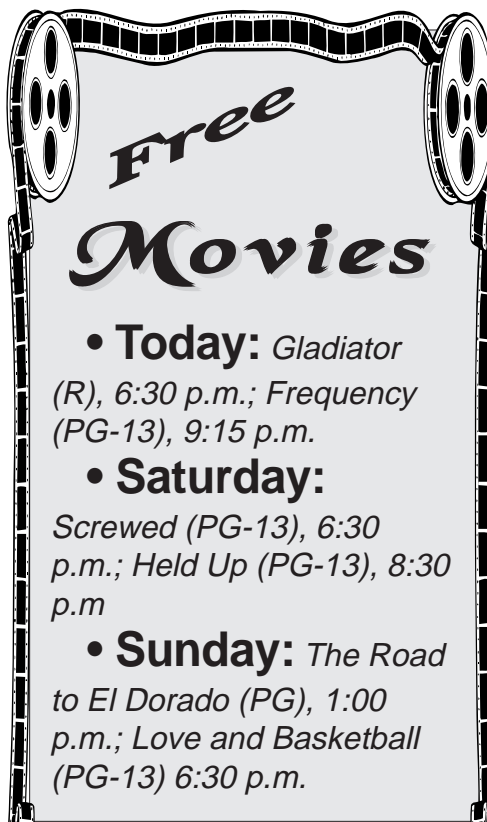
ColorJam Dance Party in Fun Town.

Tickets are \$25.25 for ages 3 and up at the Entertainment Ticket Office.

While you're at the Entertainment Ticket Office enter to win a 398 piece Lego Technic Building Set! Enter by 15 July, the winner will be notified on 17 July. For more information, call 577 - 4126.

Freebies of the Week for July

July 10 – 14: The Semper Fit Sports & Fitness Center has a drawing for three gift certificates.



Free Movies

- **Today:** *Gladiator (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Frequency (PG-13)*, 9:15 p.m.
- **Saturday:** *Screwed (PG-13)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Held Up (PG-13)*, 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday:** *The Road to El Dorado (PG)*, 1:00 p.m.; *Love and Basketball (PG-13)* 6:30 p.m.

Grummer, continued from page 5

pher Mason, noncommissioned officer in charge, Rotary Wing Readiness Office.

"You just absolutely love to work for him. You really know that he cares for you," said Capt. Lee Brown, officer-in-charge RWRO. Petty Officer 2nd Class Gary Condit recalls a time when a Navy chief petty officer was sick and couldn't find a replacement to take his duty. Condit said Grummer found the chief petty officer a replacement and personally took him to the hospital, where he spent five hours with him and later took the ailing Sailor home to his wife.

Be that as it may, Grummer's Marines and Sailors know that behind the frequent smile on his tan, weathered face is a no-nonsense leader who expects as much out of them as he trusts in them.

"He has high expectations (of his Marines and Sailors), but supports their efforts to live up to his standards," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Rosalie Wright, Carrier Readiness coordinator, of the nearly 6-foot-6-inch, 59-year-old Marine known by many as "Bigfoot." "When a policy is enforced (by his juniors) he will stand up against any repercussions." She said it is because of their trust in his leadership and support that juniors under Grummer's charge handle more than their peers and subsequently experience more job satisfaction.

His leadership style is one most would describe as "old-Corps."

"If it doesn't contribute to the mission or to the welfare of his Marines he's not inter-

Continued on next page

Sergeant Major's



By Sgt. Maj. Ira Lott

COMCABWEST Sergeant Major

Next week is Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's 7th annual West Coast Sergeant's Major picnic for several hundred retired sergeants major. The picnic is July 15, but most will be enjoying our air station July 13.

They will be eating in the chow hall, enjoying our golf course, and exchange and touring the station. All whom I've talked to are very excited about coming to Miramar and seeing the Marine Corps' newest base.

They want to talk with today's Marines, so welcome them and feel free to talk with them.

July 31, proficiency and conduct marks are due to the commanding officer on corporals and below. Leaders at all levels should be involved in the recommending of marks for your Marines.

The staff sergeant selection board's convening date has been pushed back to Aug. 15 (Marine Administrative Message 332/00). There was a computer shut down at headquarters that supplied the board with your master brief sheet, official military personnel file along with other data.

This gives Marines more time to ensure all their information is correct. See your admin personnel or sergeant major.

Here are some other MARADMIN's that you might be interested in: MARADMIN 317/00 deals with the 2000 GEICO Military Service Award for outstanding contributions to the military or civilian community in one of the following areas; drug and alcohol abuse prevention, fire safety, fire prevention, traffic safety, and accident prevention. MARADMIN 318/00 deals with the American Legion Spirit of Service Award for outstanding community contributions. Deadline is July 14.

We did real good taking care of each other this past holiday weekend. There were only 16 seatbelt violations and no DUI's. Good job.

ested,” said Brown.

“He’s a straight shooter whether good or bad,” Navy Lt. Pat Turner, Shore Station Readiness officer said.

“I made my staff noncommissioned officers run the place and made the officers manage,” he said. “Staff NCOs are the backbone of the Marine Corps who manage the day-to-day work, training and know their troops.”

“I’ve always said a staff NCO is sly, shifty and bares to be watched,” he added, referring to their ‘whatever it takes’ dedication to mission accomplishment.

Grummer said, in his opinion, the leadership responsibility of NCOs has been minimized in years past. “When I was a corporal I was in charge. What a corporal did then, a staff sergeant does today,” he said.

An eyewitness to decades of change
However, Grummer was quick to note several improvements in Corps policies during his career, particularly those affecting quality of life issues. “Quality of life has improved 10,000 percent, which I really like,” said Grummer. He is especially impressed with improvement to enlisted barracks and changes that affect families. Grummer said the “if the Corps wanted you to have a wife they would’ve issued you one” mentality held by many early in his career is long gone. He added that the wealth of family advocacy programs made available through Marine Corps Community Services, especially since the mid-1980s are an acknowledgement of the important role of Marine Corps families.

“Without a wife a lot of you aren’t going to do well,” he said, noting how his own wife has helped him grow as a Marine since he was a lance corporal.

The assignment of key billets that support the Unit Deployment Program to three-year accompanied tours was also a move that Grummer said helped the family and brought more stability to deployed forces. Recent efforts to build more family housing and improve existing units were also among the noted quality of life improvements. He said these efforts are needed more today partially due to the fact that Marines are more widely deployed now than during the Cold War.

“We didn’t have nearly as many small flare ups back then,” he said.

Policy changes requiring professional military education and offering treatment to Marines with alcohol or drug abuse problems were also among the positive changes the Corps has incurred during his time. He said he’s seen the policy on Driving Under the Influence fluctuate from a slap on the wrist, to grounds for denying reenlistment, to its current state. However, he said the most positive policy change regarding alcohol use is the implementation of alcohol treatment programs to help good Marines quit a bad habit.

Grummer also remembered when more military occupational specialties began to open up to female Marines. While serving as the supply officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 29 he had about 20 female Marines working for him. To this longtime Marine, the only important thing was get-

ting the job done. As he recalls, “They had their job assignments and they went out and done them.”

A reasonable man and a Marine to be reckoned with

Navy Capt. Jim Maus, COMNAVAIRPAC force supply officer, labeled Grummer as an “honest broker” and an institution within the Navy-Marine Corps aviation community.

“People know when he says he’s going to do something it’s gonna happen,” Maus said. Because of Grummer’s paramount understanding of aviation logistics, he speaks with great authority. He is personally responsible for prioritizing aviation supply distribution to all 7th Fleet, and 1st and 3d Marine Aircraft Wing squadrons deployed aboard aircraft carriers and amphibious assault ships.

Referred to some as the “EF Hutton” of naval Aviation, Maus said Grummer is a leader who is respected by his seniors as well as his juniors.

“He treats everyone the same way. It doesn’t matter if it’s an admiral or a young airman, when he speaks people listen,” he said. “He’s the complete package. He’s tough, he’s demanding, but boy does he take care of his people.”

An impacting legacy
“He’s been a mentor to hundreds of Marines and Sailors which populate the fleet today,” said Vice Adm. Bowman. “The greatest legacy you leave behind is the people and the way they operate, and the way they feel about you,” the admiral told Grummer at his

June 9 retirement behind COMNAVAIRPAC Headquarters. “They say, ‘There is no one in the Navy or the Marine Corps who is indispensable.’ Today we will greatly test that adage.”

According to the Legion of Merit citations awarded to Grummer by the president and the chief of naval operations at his retirement his contributions as weapons systems officer, and Afloat and Ashore Supply Systems officer from June 1996 to June 2000 were very impacting. During this time he initiated and implemented numerous initiatives which brought raised AIRPAC deployed carrier and L-ship readiness rates far above CNO mandated levels. Grummer also implemented the quality of life initiatives such as the installation of automated teller machines and self-service laundries aboard ships.

Grummer humbly said that any impact he may have had was just part of him doing his everyday job.

“I probably influenced a lot of changes, but I never realized it,” he said. “If you have an idea you present it to the higher ups. If they buy on it, they buy on it.”

Looking back on his career, Grummer said he has no regrets.

“If I could spend another six months to make it an even 40, I would, but when the Marine Corps says, ‘go home son, you’ve been here long enough,’ that’s what you do,” said Grummer. “I’m gonna miss it. It’s been my whole life.” He is retiring to his home in Oceanside, Calif., where he plans to explore a second career in real estate.